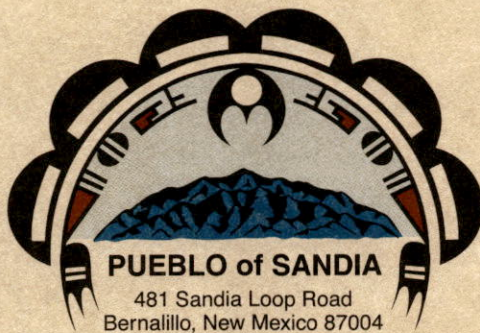


Stuart Paisano
Governor

Felix Chaves
Lt. Governor



(505) 867-3317
Fax (505) 867-9235
www.sandiapueblo.nsn.us

April 29, 2022

Sent via E-mail to Julia.Friedmann@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury
U.S. House of Representatives
1421 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Letter of Support for the Water Data Act

Dear Representative Stansbury:

On behalf of the Pueblo of Sandia, thank you again for proactively addressing the future of water for the Middle Rio Grande Pueblos and the State of New Mexico. Please accept this letter of support for your proposed bill entitled the "Water Data Act". As we understand, this bill will transform the collection and management of critical water data by creating a coordinated approach across all federal agencies that study and manage water. Better data governance will put this information in the hands of tribes and other communities to use in addressing the diminishing availability of water due to climate change.

Ensuring that Tribes have access to the information necessary to make data-driven water management decisions will help to improve water management outcomes. We support your efforts to make existing and future data more accessible, useful, and ultimately well-utilized. Please let me know if you or your staff would like any additional information on this important legislation. We look forward to hearing from you again soon.

Respectfully,

Stuart Paisano
Governor

cc: Representative Melanie Stansbury, via e-mail to lauren.vernon@mail.house.gov
Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez, via e-mail to james.green@mail.house.gov
Steffani A. Cochran, Pueblo of Sandia General Counsel (via e-mail)
File



"The Green Spot of the Columbia Basin"

South Columbia Basin Irrigation District

Office: 1155 E. Hillsboro Street, Suite A, P.O. Box 1006 Pasco, WA 99301

Telephone: (509)547-1735 Fax: (509)547-8669

May 16, 2022

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury
United States House of Representatives
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for *Water Data Act*

Dear Representative Stansbury:

On behalf of South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (SCBID), I write to express support for your "*Water Data Act*". SCBID is one of three irrigation districts that make up the Columbia Basin Project, and serves more than 233,000 acres. We are committed to the fundamental proposition that Western irrigated agriculture must be preserved and protected for a host of economic, sociological, environmental, and national security reasons – many of which are often overlooked in the context of other national policy decisions.

Sound Western water resources decision-making demands accurate and timely data on precipitation, temperature, evapotranspiration, soil moisture, snow depth, snow water content, streamflow, groundwater, water quality and similar information. Critical and vital information is gathered and disseminated through a number of important federal programs. There is a serious need to focus on coordinated data collection and dissemination.

The Alliance has long advocated for improved agency coordination and decision-making at the federal level. These are necessary components to managing Western water resources and modernizing our aging water infrastructure to help us deal with the changing climate and hydrology in the West. The *Water Data Act* would direct federal agencies to standardize water data collection and provide funding to build innovative tools for water management. The approach taken in this bill is consistent with our long-held philosophy that federal agencies should coordinate closely on water management matters.

Thank you for your good work on Western water challenges. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on the *Water Data Act* as it moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

John O'Callaghan
Secretary/Manager



Sue Lowry, Executive Director
P.O. Box 20908
Cheyenne, WY 82003
Sue@ICWP.org
307-630-5804
www.icwp.org

May 8, 2022

House Natural Resources Committee
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Members of the Subcommittee on Water Oceans and Wildlife:

Membership of the Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP) includes state and interstate water resources management agencies, each who require timely and accurate water data to carry out their water allocation and other management duties in their respective states or interstate river basins. The gathering of water data in the United States is a partnership among local, regional, state and federal governments and Representative Stansbury's Water Data Act contains many provisions that will be extremely useful to ICWP members in their day-to-day operations of managing our precious water resources.

ICWP is particularly supportive of the Section authorizing the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI). Congressional authority for an ACWI is important as the good work of the previous ACWI was undercut when many Advisory Committees were abolished under the previous administration. ICWP had a seat on the ACWI for many years and this was an important avenue for non-federal partners to understand the programs of the federal government and provide input on how all our limited resources could be best utilized to collect, analyze and understand water data with the most efficiency and efficacy to the greatest number of decisions makers and water data users.

As water related disasters such as drought, floods and hurricanes continue to become more erratic and severe, it's imperative that we all coordinate our management of water data and information. We support the Water Data Act and encourage its swift passage.

With best regards,

Sue Lowry
Executive Director, ICWP



May 16, 2022

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury
United States House of Representatives
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for *Water Data Act*

Dear Representative Stansbury:

On behalf of the Family Farm Alliance (Alliance), I write to express support for your “*Water Data Act*”. The Alliance is a grassroots organization of family farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts, and allied industries in 16 Western states. We are committed to the fundamental proposition that Western irrigated agriculture must be preserved and protected for a host of economic, sociological, environmental, and national security reasons – many of which are often overlooked in the context of other national policy decisions.

Sound Western water resources decision-making demands accurate and timely data on precipitation, temperature, evapotranspiration, soil moisture, snow depth, snow water content, streamflow, groundwater, water quality and similar information. Critical and vital information is gathered and disseminated through a number of important federal programs. There is a serious need to focus on coordinated data collection and dissemination.

The Alliance has long advocated for improved agency coordination and decision-making at the federal level. These are necessary components to managing Western water resources and modernizing our aging water infrastructure to help us deal with the changing climate and hydrology in the West. The *Water Data Act* would direct federal agencies to standardize water data collection and provide funding to build innovative tools for water management. The approach taken in this bill is consistent with our long-held philosophy that federal agencies should coordinate closely on water management matters.

Thank you for your good work on Western water challenges. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on the *Water Data Act* as it moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Keppen".

Dan Keppen, Executive Director

May 17, 2022



Office of Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury (NM-01)
1421 Longworth HOB,
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter of Support for the Water Data and Security Act

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter as documentation of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District's (MRGCD) full support of the proposed Water Data & Security Act.

The MRGCD operates, maintains, and manages irrigation, drainage, and river flood control in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. MRGCD promotes efficient and responsible water management and plays an important role in supporting endangered species within our riparian corridor in cooperation with other local, state, and federal agencies. Severe drought conditions coupled with long-term climate projections for the Southwest United States and the Rio Grande Basin highlight the need for enhanced water data collection, which can inform the planning and execution of strategic, basin-wide water resource management projects. MRGCD and our constituents would greatly benefit from implementing the Water Data & Security Act to catalyze water data collection and improve the security and quality of water in the Rio Grande Basin for all users.

The Middle Rio Grande is home to an incredibly complex matrix of wildlife habitat, farmland, municipalities, and industry. As median water supply conditions continue to change, the need for adaptive, robust, and approachable tools for managing water are imperative. In short, we can't manage what we can't measure. Continuing to enhance water data collection on a granular level and then making that data accessible is the first step in how MRGCD and other water managers will be able to prepare against and ultimately combat water resource scarcity. Water security and quality for our communities, ecosystem health for fish, and wildlife, along with collaboration and consultation with Rio Grande Basin partners, are at the forefront of how MRGCD intends to meet the challenge of managing our most precious resource.

P.O. Box 581

87103-0581

1931 Second St. SW

Albuquerque, NM

87102-4515

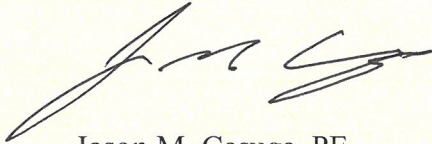
505.247.0234

Fax # 505.243.7308

MRGCD is committed to working with our local, state, tribal, and federal partners to improve our collective ability to manage water for the present while setting the foundation for how we will collectively manage water into the future.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason M. Casuga', written in a cursive style.

Jason M. Casuga, PE
CEO/Chief Engineer